

Tribune.
In addition to the Navy Band and Commodores concerts, the Symposium offers many popular clinics, masterclasses and recitals, as well as vendors for instrument companies, sheet music and accessories. Friday night events begin at 5 p.m. and culminate with the Navy Band's performance at 8 p.m. Saturday events run from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., and the Commodores take the stage at 8 p.m. For more information, see our website at www.navyband.navy.mil. A complete schedule of events will be available in early November.
The 30th International Saxophone Symposium is free and open to the public, and no tickets are required. *ff*

“HAPPY HOLIDAYS” NAVY BAND HOLIDAY CONCERTS

Saturday, December 16, 7:30 p.m.

Sunday, December 17, 3 p.m.

The United States Navy Band and its specialty groups present this year's holiday concert entitled “Happy Holidays” at DAR Constitution Hall, 18th and D Streets, N.W., in Washington, D.C. The performances are FREE and tickets are required. To request up to four FREE tickets, please send a self-addressed stamped business-size envelope to:

Holiday Tickets (FF)
U.S. Navy Band
P.O. Box 70271
Washington, D.C. 20024-0271
(Designate “A” for Saturday and “B” for Sunday)

Please allow 1-4 weeks for delivery.
All ticket requests are filled on a first come first served basis, and must be received by December 8.

The Naval Media Center will broadcast the performance via satellite. We expect the performance to be carried by Direct to Sailor network (DTS) and American Forces Radio and Television Service (AFRTS). Various local cable channels may choose to air this special. Check your local listings or on-screen cable programming guide for details. Visit www.navyband.navy.mil later in December for a complete list of stations.

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DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY

The United States Navy Band
617 Warrington Ave., S.E.
Washington Navy Yard, D.C. 20374-5054

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Santa Claus Wants You!

Santa Claus wants you - to come and share music of the season by your United States Navy Band and specialty groups!

He's making a list and checking it twice, and you're invited to do the same. We've made it easy. Go to the Performance Calendar and circle the concerts you want to attend throughout November and December. Then come and enjoy your favorite music by “The World's Finest” - it's our musical gift to you this holiday season.

Captain Ralph M. Gambone, Commanding Officer/Leader of the Navy Band, plans to kick off December with a mix of traditional band and holiday music at River Hill High School in Clarksville, Md., on December 1.

The “Sea Chanters” chorus continues their 50th Anniversary celebrations with a return to their seasonal concerts in both Maryland and Virginia

Join Captain Ralph M. Gambone and the men and women of the United States Navy Band for the 30th International Saxophone Symposium on January 5 and 6, 2007, at George Mason University in Fairfax, Va. Founded in 1977 by Master Chief Musician (Retired) Dale Underwood, the Symposium has been a mainstay of the

on December 2 and 3. This world-class ensemble will present masterpieces in several genres that are sure to bring the majesty and beauty of the season from their voices straight to your heart.

Santa himself will be checking to see if you're at DAR Constitution Hall for Navy Band's annual *Happy Holidays* concerts, featuring members from the entire command.

Captain Gambone has chosen the program based on *your* input via polls in *fanfare* and on the web. We don't want to give anything away - you'll just have to come to hear if your suggestion made it to the final play list. As always, there will be something for everyone. You'll find directions for ordering your free tickets in this issue of *fanfare*. Once again, the Naval Media Center will broadcast *Happy Holidays* to



shipmates around the world. Check your local cable listings to see if it will be shown in your area. We'll post this list on our web site as it becomes available.

Santa's bag of musical presents is not empty yet! Soon you'll be able to log onto the web to hear our latest recordings, *Sail Loft Sounds*, featuring music by our very own composers and arrangers, and *Heritage of the March*. Happy Holidays! *ff*

30th International Saxophone Symposium

Navy Band and the community ever since. Each year, three featured artists are invited to perform with the Navy Band. This year's classical guest artists for the Friday night Navy Band performance are Philippe Geiss from Strasbourg Conservatory in France and Dale Underwood, saxophone instructor at George Mason University and the University of Maryland. Joining

our guest artists in performance is Navy Band's own saxophone soloist Senior Chief Musician Timothy E. Roberts.

Our featured jazz soloist for Saturday night's “Commodores” jazz ensemble concert is tenor saxophonist Chris Potter, named as “one of the most dynamic young players in jazz,” by the *Chicago*

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Performance Calendar

The U.S. Navy Band and specialty groups present the following FREE concerts. Tickets or reservations are not required unless noted (*). For more information call (202) 433-2525.

NOVEMBER NAVY BAND

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7:30 P.M.
Bethesda-Chevy Chase High School
4301 East-West Highway
Bethesda, Md.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 18, 8:15 P.M.*
Towson University Center for the Arts
Harold J. Kaplan Concert Hall
Towson, Md.
*for **FREE** ticket information call
(410) 704-2787.

CHAMBER GROUPS

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 2 P.M.
Chamber Recital
Glenview Mansion
603 Edmonston Drive
Rockville, Md.

BRASS QUARTET

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 8 P.M.
Old Town Hall
Fairfax, Va.

“WINDJAMMERS” woodwind quintet

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 7:30 P.M.*
Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)
Washington Navy Yard, D.C.
*For **FREE** reservations call
(202) 433-6897.

DECEMBER

NAVY BAND

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 7 P.M.
River Hill High School
12101 Route 108
Clarksville, Md.

SEA CHANTERS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7 P.M.
Grace Brethren Church
9870 Old Solomons Island Road
Owings, Md.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 3, 3 P.M.
Community Lutheran Church
21014 Whitfield Place
Sterling, Va.

BRASS QUARTET & VOCALIST

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, NOON
“Holiday Family Day”
U.S. Navy Memorial
701 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, D.C.

HARP FLUTE DUO

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 14, 7:30 P.M.*
Navy Museum (Bldg. 76)
Washington Navy Yard, D.C.
*For **FREE** reservations call
(202) 433-6897.

COMMODORES 2006 FALL TOUR

The Commodores jazz ensemble departs November 2 on an 11 day tour through California and Arizona. The following is a list of tour performances.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 3, 7:30 P.M.
San Mateo Performing Arts Center
San Mateo, Calif.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 7:30 P.M.
Porterville Memorial Auditorium
Porterville, Calif.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 5, 3 P.M.
Pier Plaza
Hermosa Beach, Calif.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, NOON
Paseo Colorado Ampitheatre
Pasadena, Calif.

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 7 P.M.
Great Oak High School
Auditorium
Temecula, Calif.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 7 P.M.
Hemet High School Gymnasium
Hemet, Calif.

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 7:30 P.M.
Brown Chapel
Point Loma Nazarene University
San Diego, Calif.

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10, 7 P.M.
Palm Desert Civic Center Park
Amphitheater
Palm Desert, Calif.

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 7:30 P.M.
Paradise Valley
High School Auditorium
Phoenix, Ariz.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 12, 7:30 P.M.

Northern Arizona University
Ardrey Auditorium
Flagstaff, Ariz.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 13, 7 P.M.

Yavapai College
Performance Hall
Prescott, Ariz.

LOOKING AHEAD TO JANUARY

NAVY BAND AND COMMODORES

Join Captain Ralph M. Gambone and the men and women of Navy Band and the “Commodores” jazz ensemble, along with special guest performers for the 30th International Saxophone Symposium at the George Mason University Center for the Arts for two days of informative clinics, masterclasses and chamber group recitals. These events are followed by evening concerts by the Navy Band on Friday and the Commodores on Saturday.

FRIDAY AND SATURDAY, JANUARY 5 & 6, 2007

Center for the Arts
George Mason University
Fairfax, Va.

Visit www.navyband.navy.mil
for more information.

fanfare's performance calender is accurate at the time of publication. For the very latest information, telephone (202) 433-2525. Options vary by season, but you'll always hear the upcoming concert schedule as well as a separate selection for cancellations. You may also check our website for further updates on upcoming performances.

United States Navy Band • Washington, D.C.

Captain Ralph M. Gambone, USN • Commanding Officer/Leader

All concert information is accurate at time of publication, though subject to change due to weather and other conditions. For concert updates call the 24-hour Navy Band Performance Calendar at (202) 433-2525, or visit us on the web at www.navyband.navy.mil.

CAPTAIN’S MESSAGE



Thanksgiving seems an appropriate time to express my gratitude for things past and expectations of things to come. I count myself blessed to have had a career that combined my love for country with music while affording wonderful opportunities for my family. As my service in the Navy comes to a close (I retire in 2007), I look back on precious memories of Navy Music and you, our supporters. As you gather with your families in the upcoming months, I hope you'll include the music of your United States Navy Band, which, as the Navy itself, combines tradition and innovation.

We've been celebrating the 100th anniversary of "Anchors Aweigh" by playing it in its entirety at many concerts, including the grand re-opening of our buildings and the recent Navy Birthday Concert (and what a delight it was to share this event again with the great actor and friend, Ernest Borgnine).

This year has seen the fulfillment of two career-long dreams. Your Navy Band occupies newly renovated spaces and has now been officially designated as a Navy command! Our enhanced presence on the World Wide Web includes the November launch of our latest recording projects -- *Sail Loft Sounds* and *Heritage of the March*. Enjoy! Working with you to create this year's play list for our annual holiday concerts has been a treat. Thank you for your input through our recent poll. And, looking forward to January 2007, yet another anniversary awaits us with the 30th International Saxophone Symposium.

I look forward to my final concerts as conductor, and I eagerly anticipate joining you in the audience for many years to come. To our shipmates around the world and to you at home, I wish you peace and joy of the season - Happy Holidays!

Ralph M. Gambone, Captain, USN
Commanding Officer/Leader

NOTABLE QUOTES

I took my son to see a performance by the Commodores. The selections were excellent, the musicianship equally so. They're great ambassadors for the Navy, great musicians, and were great for my soul that night. ... We need that swinging stuff out here. Keep it up.

Commodores fan from Massachusetts

I saw Country Current ... this past weekend in Maine and they were by far the most incredible group of the festival. There were Grammy winners and bluegrass legends playing, but the Navy sent us the band with the most spirit (and talent) of the entire weekend. They had everyone standing and cheering for the good ole U.S.A. and honored those among us who served in our military service. ... They are awesome.

Country Current fan from Maine

Thank you for the wonderful concerts at the Navy Memorial. We so enjoyed the music from the Beach Boys to ABBA and much in between. We loved the energy and passion from the musicians.

"Concerts on the Avenue" fan (D.C.)

Just letting you know I just caught the Cruisers performance today at Downs Park and they were truly AWESOME!!!! Hopefully, I can catch them again in the area soon.

Cruisers fan from Maryland

I can't find the words to express how much we enjoyed the Sea Chanters concert in Jacobus, Pa. We ... have seen over a dozen Broadway shows. My work takes me to Las Vegas and I've seen many shows in that city too. The performance (of) the Sea Chanters ... didn't take a back seat to any of the above. The program had something for everyone.

Sea Chanters fan from Pennsylvania

Many Roads Lead to a Navy Band Career

The Navy Band is a specialized organization unlike any other in the Navy. While most recruits make career and education choices after joining the military, candidates vying for a position in the Navy Band must pass a rigorous audition before taking the oath. This audition supersedes any educational or career accomplishments. In the words of Navy Band Audition Supervisor Master Chief Musician Stuart B. McLean, "An advanced degree is helpful, but not required. Experience and

behind them, gained years of experience in the civilian community before joining the Band. Almost everyone entered the music business as freelance musicians in their respective areas. Several Concert Band members held symphony orchestra positions not only in the United States, but also in Europe and South America. Others spent time on the road with well-



known figures in popular music. For example, Senior Chief Musician Randy D. Mattson of the Commodores played bass for Wayne Newton from 1984 to 1991. The Cruisers' Musician 1st Class Kenneth H. Carr played guitar with Ray Charles for 10 years, and Country Current pedal steel guitarist Musician 1st Class Brad M. Corbin toured with Lonestar, one of the biggest acts in country music.

The Navy Band also draws talent from the rest of the Navy Music Program and other military bands. Ambitious Sailors who hold full-time positions in any of the 12 Navy Fleet Bands or the Naval Academy Band are encouraged to audition for a position in the Navy Band any time an opening occurs. Currently, the Navy Band employs 25 former fleet and Academy Band Sailors including Chief Musician John L. Fisher, Unit Leader of the Cruisers. Several members of the Navy Band came from the field and academy bands of the Air Force, Army and Marines. Still others crossed over from the other premier bands in Washington and the Connecticut-based Coast Guard Band.

Occasionally, the Navy Band



performing ability are the most important qualities in winning an audition." Experience and ability can be gained in a number of ways and, as the diverse backgrounds of our musicians show, there are many roads that lead to a career in the Navy Band.

Most instrumentalists and vocalists in the Navy Band launched their music careers by pursuing higher education at a quality music school. The years of practice and development in a nurturing educational environment are hard to equal, especially in the genres of classical and jazz music. Out of 167 musicians currently in the Band, 53% arrived having already earned a bachelor's degree, 27% had master's degrees and two individuals had acquired their doctorates. The ranks of the Navy Band include alumni from some of the top music schools in the country and around the world.

Many of our musicians, some with their formal education

is fortunate enough to find talented shipmates from outside of the Navy Music Program. These are fleet Sailors who honed their musical talent while serving the Navy in some other capacity. Two members of Country Current fit this category - Unit Leader Master Chief Musician Wayne C. Taylor entered the Navy as an Airman and bassist Musician 1st Class Joseph L. Wheatley was a proud Seabee.

The Navy Band is filled with talented musicians with backgrounds as individual as their personalities. They all share a dedication to their art and a willingness to work hard at their craft. Once a successful candidate is accepted, he or she finds that the hard work does not stop there. For Navy Band members, the audition is not the end of the road, it's only the beginning.

THE UNITED STATES NAVY BAND HAS OPENINGS FOR HIGHLY QUALIFIED AND EXPERIENCED INSTRUMENTALISTS AND VOCALISTS.

CONCERT/CEREMONIAL BAND
Euphoniumaudition TBD
PercussionJanuary 22
TubaJanuary 29
Piano/KeyboardFebruary 5
SEA CHANTERS
Tenor VocalistJanuary 19
Bass Vocalistby appointment
STAFF
Sound Support
Engineerby appointment
For more information: call Master Chief Musician Stuart B. McLean, Audition Supervisor, at (202) 433-2840, or email: navyband.auditions@navy.mil.

NAVY BAND BECOMES A COMMAND...

On September 18, 2006, the Chief of Naval Operation officially designated United States Navy Band a command. In changing from an organization to a command, Navy Band now has the highest prestige the Navy can offer. This change is a reflection of the many years of outstanding service and dedication of the men and women who have served in the Band and brings the Navy Band closer to par with the sister service bands in the Washington area.

COMMANDER THOMPSON APPOINTED NEW LEADER...



Commander George N. Thompson, Jr., has been named the prospective Commanding Officer/Leader of the United States Navy Band. Upon assuming command in Spring 2007, Cmdr. Thompson will be the 12th leader in the history of the Band. Currently, Cmdr. Thompson is Head, Navy Music Program in Millington, Tenn. A native of Philadelphia, Cmdr. Thompson enlisted in the Navy in 1977 as a keyboardist. He rose quickly through the ranks, becoming a Chief Musician in 1989 prior to his commissioning as an Ensign in 1990. During his 28 years of service, he has served at numerous duty stations in the U.S. and abroad, including a tour as Navy Band's Operations Officer in 1991. The Navy Band looks forward to working with Cmdr. Thompson in continuing its tradition as "The World's Finest."

SPOTLIGHT ON...

Musician First Class Luis Hernandez is the Navy Band's Sailor of the Year for 2006. A gifted tenor saxophonist with the Commodores jazz ensemble, he contributes musicianship and more to his unit and to the Navy Band.

Tell us about your earlier years. My parents came from Cuba to this country in the early 70s, and we lived in Miami, Fla. I started playing the saxophone in ninth grade and was instantly hooked. When it was time for high school, I attended the "New World School of the Arts." The school was intense because we performed music at a college level, plus we had all the usual academic courses. It was great! Soon after, I enrolled at the University of North Texas where the music school has a well-known reputation. While finishing my last semester at the university, I heard about the Commodores audition, gave it a shot, and here I am 10 years later.

Who were your musical influences? I was naturally drawn to the great alto saxophonist and clarinet player, Paquito D'Rivera. I say "naturally" because he, too, is Cuban. Since he is a jazz and Latin jazz artist, I gravitated toward improvised music. In high school, I was exposed to many great players and my love for jazz intensified. My all time greatest influences are John Coltrane, Sonny Rollins and Ben Webster, although I love many more.

Tell us about working with the Navy's premier jazz ensemble, the Commodores. It's always a blessing to play with great musicians. Everyone in the group brings their unique gifts and abilities. I learned early on that for the Navy Band to be successful, it takes dedicated members who are willing to contribute not just their musical talents, but also their time in accomplishing the "behind the scenes" work. Most folks might not realize that we have full-time staff members that keep the band "afloat" in often less than ideal circumstances. I have learned a lot about how our organization works and have gained a greater appreciation for my job as a musician in the Navy.

What are your thoughts on being named the Navy Band's Sailor of the Year for 2006?

To be honest, I was shocked at being selected as "Sailor of the Year." I can think of many others more deserving than I am. I must thank my unit leaders who graciously nominated me. They are great and I am very appreciative.

What music do you currently listen to? I have been listening a lot to John Coltrane's *Transition* and *Live at Birdland* and Keith Jarrett's *Live at the Deer Head*.

What do you enjoy doing in your free time? I try to spend most of my time with my wife and two children. They are a gift and they bring me great joy. I also enjoy playing racquetball, although I hardly get to play.



Visit us on the web at www.navyband.navy.mil

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